

Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 26th May 2024 10 am

“Ready and willing?”

Opening Scripture

Hymn MP 41 At the Name of Jesus

Prayer

Scripture Psalm 135 (page 626)

Children’s talk Aaron

Chorus MP 38 As we are gathered Jesus is here.

Notices Helena Membership (Associate) Bible Ex review/ Friday evening,
Maintenance day tomorrow can you help? numbers.
Fellowship lunch at Arrow Valley. Minibus driver?
John 1 - I am Andrew. Invitation cards to BGEA event 15th June

Prayer and Lord’s prayer

Readings Numbers 32:6-33 (page 172)

Deuteronomy 3:12-20 (page 181), Joshua 22:1-6 (page 237)

Hymn MP 333 In loving kindness

Transjordan tribes PPT

Sermon “Ready and willing?”

Hymn MP 302 I want to walk

Closing Prayer:

Numbers 22 The request to Moses

Deut 3:12 - 20 The eastern side land division and instructions

Joshua 22 The eastern tribes return home.

Prayer “Lord we pray your Holy Spirit will be our guide, Your Holy word inform our mind, your glory our supreme concern”.

- A platoon of soldiers was beaten back, and why? Because they had become divided and were outnumbered by the enemy.
- There are some very talented players in the English football team but one reason they don’t do so well it seems is that they don’t spend enough time playing together as a team.
- Some bills have failed in the House of Commons simply because some MPs who should have been present - weren’t.

⇒ It is election season and you may have seen a slogan coming ‘we are stronger together’ or ‘better together’

Take an orchestra, how could they play if the violin section was missing?

- Families more closely bound together are stronger and more secure. They help each other, such as when they need to set up in business or buy property, but also to help each other in adversity. Working at the back of the house yesterday was better when we did it together.

All these examples are about people being together. That happens when we think corporately, when we see ourselves as a group of people together.

⇒ It is especially true of the church. We are a body of people together.

The Lord’s people are to work and serve together. **From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work** Eph 4:16 That is pretty unambiguous; **body, joined, held together, supporting ligament, each part does its work.**

If you are in His body then you have a part to play. There is a part that He has for you, an important part for you to do, - together with the rest of us.

God see us as a body of people, worshipping, working, witnessing, praying and living out our lives as part of a group. We are described as a people, a flock, a family. It is when we are together, and in unity, that He is particularly present in our midst. The Holy Spirit unites us, and empowers us to go in obedience and make disciples of all nations. This we do together. When this happens, we have joy, His Kingdom grows and He is honoured.

It is difficult to read the NT and miss this. This is what we are to do now, but it is also what God’s people were always to do. In the OT as the Lord’s people were redeemed from their slavery in Egypt they were to live, worship, serve, fight and die together. The Transjordan tribes were “Ready and willing?” to do their share. Are you and I *ready and willing?* to do ours?

Review

Let us review the scene. Show in PowerPoint. Most of the heading begin with 'R' There is a space to fill in on the bulletin.

Finally after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness the Israelites headed north towards the promised land. They came to the east side of the river Jordan having destroyed Og king of Bashan and Sihon king of the Amorites.

From the East side, as the whole nation prepares to cross over westwards, Moses re-tells the law in Deuteronomy, the second giving of the law.

They were to go in and take the land the Lord had given them. They would do the fighting - but it would be the Lord fighting for them. Moses, not to cross over with them appoints Joshua who will lead them in their campaigns.

Request

While there v1. **The Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks, saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were suitable for livestock.**

So they came to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the leaders of the community, and said, "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo and Beon—the land the LORD subdued before the people of Israel—are suitable for livestock, and your servants have livestock. If we have found favour in your eyes," they said, "let this land be given to your servants as our possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan." Nu 32:1-5

We like it here! – This will suit our flocks; this will be just fine. Was it a reasonable request? Yes.

Rebuke

But Moses is very mindful of how easily the Lord's people can become divided. With the memory still raw he says: **7 Why do you discourage the Israelites from going over into the land the LORD has given them?**

Moses knows the misery of discouragement. There had earlier been Korah's rebellion against the Lord; the people had complained about the lack of water; Balaam had been hired to curse the Israelites; Miriam and Aaron had publicly opposed him and then ten of the twelve spies who returned from the land the Lord had promised them gave such a negative '*can't do*' report that it left the rest of the people weeping aloud and grumbling against Moses. Are you a '*can't do*' person? Beware, it is the opposite of faith. It hinders others and hinders the work of God. God is a *can do* God.

v6 **"Shall your countrymen go to war while you sit here? x2**

2a

Moses rebukes them saying their wanting to stay here 'discourages others'. We all affect each other, x2. You and I either help each other with our attitude or we discourage each other with our attitude, there's nothing in the middle. Some people really encourage me with a ready and willing spirit, - others the opposite.

G Verwer said discouragement is a big problem on the OM mission field.

■ If we were all on a cruise in the Mediterranean then it wouldn't matter much. But our Christian life is not a cruise but a campaign. We are soldiers on a long hard campaign. And soldiers fight together.

Moses reminds them **8 "This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to look over the land. 9 After they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and viewed the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the LORD had given them. 10 The LORD's anger was aroused that day15 If you turn away from following him, he will again leave all this people in the desert, and you will be the cause of their destruction."**

Note that these episodes in the OT are there for our instruction and learning. The Greek church at Corinth were told to take heed of Israel's history. **"Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ... These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come."** 1 Co 10:6 & 11

⇒ That is how we should view the OT, worked examples, important warnings - to learn from, to take note of.

God saw them, as he see us, as a body. If these Eastern tribes do not join in with the others then their sin will cause the Lord's anger on the whole.

It is clear from Achin in the OT that individual sin affects us all. So in the NT Ananias and Sapphira try to hide their sin. Peter has to confront them with it – there is the sober warning!

When they had said: **"Do not make us cross the Jordan."** Moses thought they wanted to sit tight and avoid their responsibilities to fight with the others. "They're taking the easy option" thought Moses, for the fighting for the land side that had largely been done.

Recognition

But that was not the case. When the two and a half tribes said: **"Do not make us cross the Jordan"** they were referring to their women and children to stay east of the river. They did recognise that they belonged together with all the

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others. They knew they were obliged to fight alongside their brothers, they recognized that they were in this campaign together.

Ready

“¹⁶ Then they came up to him and said, "We would like to build pens here for our livestock and cities for our women and children. ¹⁷ But we are ready to arm ourselves and go ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them to their place. Meanwhile our women and children will live in fortified cities, for protection from the inhabitants of the land.

we are ready. That means to be prepared for the fight. Not only that but they were not just going to 'tag along' did you notice they say **and go ahead.** And for how long? **until we have brought them to their place.** We will see it through, until all is done, until the campaign is over, for as long as it takes.

Our battle is not with the sword against flesh and blood, no. Our battle is to go out holding up the banner of Truth, to be light bearers of Christ in this dark world. To hold out the gospel to the lost. To be ready to do so - are you? to take the lead in it - are you? and to continue in it - are you?

Ready and willing

¹⁸ **We will not return to our homes until every Israelite has received his inheritance.** They had grasped their responsibilities. They understood that belonging to a group is not a one way street, it is not for personal benefit ¹⁹ **We will not receive any inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the Jordan."**

We will, notice how many times we read that word 'will'

²⁵ "We your servants will do as our lord commands. ²⁷ your servants, every man armed for battle, will cross over to fight before the LORD, just as our lord says." They said 'we will' and they did! They repeat it again ^{v31 & 32}

Let us too be willing, - are you? willing to go, willing to go ahead, willing to stay the course, willing to stick with it until the work is completed. How it pleases the Lord when he sees a willing heart. **Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty,** Psalm 110:3

I often think in the church "this person can do that" to share in - and further, the Lord's work here. But then I think are they willing? Will there be a 'not me, can't do, too busy' answer? Willingness means everything.

These tribes served with willing hearts. That is the kind of person God uses.

Let us pray with David who said: **grant me a willing spirit** Ps 51:12

3a

A while back a church in Bournville had an Easter mini mission; 13 events over a couple of weeks. Every member was involved, all did something, and a number with significant new levels of responsibility.

We too here had a mission week at Easter. There was joy as we served with a number of willing Hong Kong'ers and there were some surprising encouragements. But sadly also disappointments, some who I had hoped to see involved - were conspicuously absent.

Warning

Moses warned them ^{v23} "But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out. and in ^{v29, 30.}

I don't think there's a clearer warning than this to show that we are to act together - and not to do so - is sin. The Lord will not ignore it. That I believe is behind the lack of progress for the gospel in our families and in our country. It is also I believe why so many Christians are depressed.

What are the battles we face in this: here are some reasons

1. I was brought up with a strong independent mindset born of a strongly independently minded culture. When I became a Christian it was a major battle to be fought - and won, and early in my Christian life.
2. There is often an unwillingness to accept authority. "Leave me alone" is the body language. "Don't tell me I have to do something" Sheep who don't want to be shepherded.
3. There is the refusal to see the clear meaning of Scripture. Some like to discover exciting new truths and treasures in God's word, yet won't see the obvious, that the NT is written to groups of people. How can we miss this? Yet many come to church with no willingness to acknowledge that they belong to each other, and we belong to them.
4. Then as voiced by the theologian John Stott who spoke of the damaging clergy/laity issue, the belief that Christian work is only for some people.

Years ago the Baptist Times had an article entitled 'To believe is to belong'. Researcher Grace Davey said that the reality for many at the beginning of the 21st century was "I go to church because I want to fulfil a particular rather than general need in my life. I will continue my attachment so long as it provides what I want. But I have no obligation either to attend in the first place or to continue to do so".

⇒ **This is not the ethic of obligation – This is the ethic of consumption.**

5. Never chose a church, or come to a church on the basis of how it helps me, or provides for me. Where is the 'what can I give, how can I serve'

3b

6. There is the oft held view “My natural family comes first”. Home commitments always take precedent. The Lord’s work is only considered ‘if I have nothing else on.’ I will consider it ‘if I am free.’

Jesus charged the church at Sardis (Rev 3:4) where only a few were close to the Lord, for only a few were actively engaged in his work.

■ Rover "If your not part of the answer your part of the problem"

What’s the point of this long passage about the Transjordan tribes? Surely it is to spur us to be similarly *ready and willing* and to give us a sober warning that an unwillingness is seen by him who searches our hearts and minds.

What does the Lord think as he looks at us here in KNBC. How willing are you to take your God given part? Will you make sure you have an area of service? will you do what you can to join in with taking out the gospel, will you visit the elderly? Help with the Youth work? Can you help Tim with the building, help by painting the fence? “I can’t do these things” you may be thinking. Well what else could you do? We desperately need help with administration. Either way you can pray, will you commit to pray? And by praying you connect with the Lord’s people - and the Lord’s work.

Napoleon was defeated in Russia in 1812 - One of the reasons was:

Napoleon kept back parts of the army and lost some of the battles.

We are all in a battle and the enemy would love to see you not involved.

So don’t *um and ahh* every time the church prayer time comes round.

Decide to be present. Be a source of encouragement by your presence! If you are often missing, if you leave that chair empty, you will discourage others with your absence. Be ready and willing. Let us honour the Lord together.

It is true when it is said the church is only as strong as it’s prayer meeting.

■ Remember the bulletin illustration last week of the church lit up only as each one brought a lamp with them and put it on the pew.

Let us do that for we **are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.** 1 Cor 12:27. To refuse to live out your life as part of the body is sin – there is not such thing as a *lone ranger Christian!*

The next ‘R’ is Response.

Christians are saved by grace - and live by grace - which means we live our lives in the obedience that comes from faith. In other words it is conditional upon our obedience. v29 **If the Gadites and Reubenites, every**

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man armed for battle, cross over the Jordan with you before the LORD, then when the land is subdued before you, give them the land of Gilead as their possession.

But there is a penalty for disobedience 30 **But if they do not cross over with you armed, they must accept their possession with you in Canaan.** If they refused or failed to perform their promise, those possessions should be forfeited, and they themselves compelled to go across the Jordan and fight for a settlement like the rest of their brethren.

Were they faithful? Yes, Yes. They are given the land on the basis of their faithfulness. Moses promises them even before it has happened 33 **Moses gave to the Gadites, the Reubenites and the half-tribe of Manasseh ... the kingdom of the Amorites and the kingdom of Bashan—the whole land with its cities and the territory around them. ... cities, and built pens for their flocks.** We see this again in Deut 3:12 (page 181) **I gave the Reubenites and the Gadites the territory north of Aroer by the Arnon Gorge, including half the hill country of Gilead, together with its towns.**

And yes they do what they had promised for they were ready and willing. We have to fast forward in time to see the actual reward the last ‘R’

Reward

Turn to Joshua 22:1 (page 237) As they return from the conquests the Eastern tribes return home. **1 Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh and said to them, "You have done all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded. It’s been a hard task, but one shared and completed.**

Can you hear the words of Jesus: “well done good and faithful servant.”

3 For a long time now—to this very day—you have not deserted your brothers but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you. A lifetime.

⇒ Christian - this is our life's work - to serve the Lord. Nothing else.

4 Now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan. For us there is a heavenly home ahead.

Oh be Ready and willing – are you? then you will share in the great reward.

We don’t have time to go into this, but they built an imposing altar by the Jordan. The other tribes are shocked. No they said this is not to offer sacrifice, this is not an alternative worship This is a reminder that we are still and always will be with you. We are one. One people together. __END

4b

“Ready and willing?”

禱告「主啊，我們祈禱您的聖靈將成為我們的嚮導，您的聖言告知我們的思想，您的榮耀是我們最關心的」。

一個排的士兵被打退了，為什麼？因為他們已經四分五裂，而且寡不敵眾。

英國足球隊中有一些非常有天賦的球員，但他們表現不佳的一個原因似乎是他們沒有花足夠的時間作為一個團隊一起比賽。

有些法案在下議院失敗只是因為一些應該出席的議員沒有出席。

現在是選舉季節，您可能已經看到了「我們在一起更強大」或「在一起更好」的口號

就拿管弦樂團來說，如果沒有小提琴部分，他們要怎麼演奏呢？

聯繫越緊密的家庭就越強大、越有安全感。他們互相幫助，例如在需要創業或購買房產時，也在逆境中互相幫助。昨天我們一起在房子後面工作時效果更好。

所有這些例子都是關於人們在一起的。當我們共同思考時，當我們將自己視為一群人時，就會發生這種情況。

□ 對教會來說尤其如此。我們是一群人在一起的。

主的子民要一起工作和服事。從他開始，整個身體，由**每條支撐韌帶**連接並結合在一起，在愛中成長並建立起來，因為**每個部分都各盡其職**（以弗所書

4:16）這是相當明確的；身體，連接，保持在一起，支撐韌帶，**每個部分都各司其職**。

如果你在他的身體裡，那麼你就可以發揮自己的作用。他為你準備了一部分，一個重要的部分，需要你和我們其他人一起做。

上帝將我們視為一群人，作為一個群體的一部分來敬拜、工作、見證、禱告和生活。我們被描述為一個民族、一群羊、一個家庭。當我們團結一致時，祂就特別出現在我們中間。聖靈將我們團結在一起，賦予我們力量去順服，使萬民成為門徒。這是我們一起做的。當這一切發生時，我們會感到喜樂，祂的國度會成長，祂會受到榮耀。

讀新約時很難忽略這一點。這是我們現在要做的事，也是上帝子民一直要做的事。在舊約中，當主的子民從埃及的奴役中被救贖時，他們要一起生活、敬拜、服事、奮戰和死亡。外約旦部落“準備好並願意了嗎？”盡自己的一份心力。你和我準備好並願意了嗎？做我們的？

審查

讓我們回顧一下當時的場景。在PowerPoint中顯示。大多數標題以“R”開頭，公告上有一個空格需要填寫。

以色列人在曠野漂流四十年之後，終於向北前往應許之地。他們消滅了巴珊王噩和亞摩利人王西宏，來到約旦河東岸。

從東邊，當整個國家準備向西渡河時，摩西在《申命記》中重新講述了律法，這是第二次頒布律法。

他們要進去佔領主給他們的土地。他們會進行戰鬥——但主會為他們而戰。摩西膏立約書亞，讓他不與他們同行，帶領他們作戰。

要求

雖然有

v1. 流便人和迦得人擁有大量的牛群和羊群，他們看到雅則爾和基列地區適合飼養牲畜。

他們去見摩西、祭司以利亞撒，並會眾的首領，說：「耶和華在以色列人面前所征服的地，就是亞他錄、底本、雅謝、寧拉、希實本、以利亞利、西巴、尼波、比翁。民 32:1-5

我們喜歡這裡！—

這適合我們的羊群；這樣就可以了。這是一個合理的要求嗎？是的。

訓斥

但摩西非常留意上帝的子民是多麼容易分裂。他記憶猶新，說：7
你們為什麼要阻止以色列人進入耶和華所賜給他們的土地？

摩西知道灰心的痛苦。早些時候，可拉曾經背叛過主。人們抱怨缺水；巴蘭受僱咒罵以色列人。米里安和亞倫公開反對他，然後從主應許之地返回的十二名探子中的十名給出瞭如此消極的“不能做”的報告，這使得其餘的人大聲哭泣並抱怨摩西。你是一個「做不到」的人嗎？當心，這與信仰相反。它攔阻別人，也攔阻神的工作。神是一位能做的的神。

v6 「當你坐在這裡時，你的同胞會去打仗嗎？x2

摩西斥責他們，說他們想留在這裡「讓其他人感到沮喪」。我們都互相影響，x2。你我要麼用我們的態度互相幫助，要麼用我們的態度互相勸阻，沒有中間的事。有些人確實以一種準備好、願意的精神鼓勵我，而有些人則相反。

G Verwer 表示，灰心喪志是 OM 宣教場上的一大問題。

如果我們都在地中海遊輪上，那就沒什麼大不了的。但我們基督徒的生活不是一次航行，而是一場運動。我們是正在進行長期艱苦戰役的士兵。和士兵一起戰鬥。

摩西提醒他們 8

「這就是我從加低斯巴尼亞派你們列祖去察看那地時所做的事。9
他們上了以實各谷，觀看那地，就阻止以色列人進入耶和華所賜給他們的地。10 那日，耶和華就發怒了.....15

如果你轉離不跟從他，他必再次將這百姓撇在曠野，你也必成為他們滅亡的原因。

請注意，舊約中的這些情節是為了給我們指導和學習。哥林多的希臘教會被告知要留意以色列的**歷史**。

「現在發生的這些事情就是為了讓我們不要像他們一樣把心放在邪惡的事情上。

.....這些發生在他們身上的事情作為例子，並被記錄下來，作為對我們的警告，因為時代的應驗已經來到了我們身上。1 連 10:6 & 11

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□

這就是我們該如何看待舊約、可行的例子、重要的警告——學習、注意。

上帝將他們視為一個整體，正如祂將我們視為一個整體。如果這些東方部落不加入其他部落，那麼他們的罪將引起主的整體憤怒。

舊約中的阿欽清楚地表明，個人的罪會影響我們所有人。因此，在新約中，亞拿尼亞和撒非喇試圖隱藏他們的罪。彼得必須面對他們——這是一個嚴肅的警告！

當他們說：“不要讓我們過約旦河。”摩西認為他們想袖手旁觀，逃避與其他戰鬥的責任。

“他們採取了簡單的選擇”，摩西想，為了這片土地而戰方面已基本完成。

認出

但事實並非如此。當這兩個半部落說：“不要讓我們過約旦河”時，他們指的是他們的婦女和兒童留在河以東。其他的。他們知道他們有義務與兄弟並肩作戰，他們認識到他們是一起參與這場戰役的。

準備好

」 16

於是他們來到他面前，說：「我們願意在這裡為我們的牲畜建造圍欄，為我們的婦女兒童建造城市。他們帶到以色列人的面前。

我們準備好了。這意味著要做好戰鬥準備。不僅如此，他們不僅僅是要“跟著”，你有沒有註意到他們說“繼續”。持續多久？直到我們把他們帶到他們的地方。我們將堅持到底，直到一切完成，直到競選結束，只要需要時間。

我們的戰鬥不是用劍對抗血肉之軀，不是。我們的戰鬥是高舉真理的旗幟，在這個黑暗的世界中成為基督的光明使者。向迷失的人傳福音。準備好這樣做—你準備好了嗎？發揮帶頭作用—你是嗎？並繼續下去——你是嗎？

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準備好並願意

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直到每一個以色列人都得到了自己的產業之前，我們才回家。他們已經掌握了自己的責任。他們明白，屬於一個團體並不是一條單行道，也不是為了個人利益。約旦。

我們會，注意我們讀了多少次「將」這個詞

25

僕人必照我們主所吩咐的去行。他們說“我們會”，他們做到了！他們再次重複 v31 和 32

讓我們也願意吧—你願意嗎？願意走，願意繼續前進，願意堅持到底，願意堅持到底，直到工作完成。當主看到一顆願意的心時，他會多麼高興。你的部隊會願意在你的戰鬥之日。穿著聖潔的威嚴，詩篇 110:3

我經常想，在教會中“這個人可以做到這一點”，以分享並進一步分享主在這裡的工作。但我想他們願意嗎？會有「不是我、做不到、太忙」的答案嗎？意願意味著一切。

這些部落懷著自願的心服務。這就是神所使用的人。

讓我們和大衛一起禱告，他說：賜我一顆甘心樂意的靈 詩篇 51:12

不久前，伯恩維爾的一間教會舉辦了一場復活節迷你宣教活動；幾週內舉辦了13

場活動。每個成員都參與其中，所有人都做了一些事情，並且一些成員承擔了重要的新職責。

我們在復活節也在這裡度過了宣教週。當我們與許多自願的香港人一起服務時，我們感到很高興，也得到了一些令人驚訝的鼓勵。但令人遺憾的是，令人失望的是，有些我希望看到參與的人卻明顯缺席了。

警告

摩西在第23

節警告他們：「你們若不這樣做，就得罪耶和華了；並且你們的罪必追上你們。」（第29節、第30節）

7a

我認為沒有比這更明確的警告來表明我們要共同行動——而不是不這樣做——

就是罪過。主不會忽視它。我相信這就是我們家庭和國家福音缺乏進展的原因。我相信這也是為什麼這麼多基督徒感到沮喪的原因。

我們在這方面面臨哪些戰鬥：以下是一些原因

1.

我從小就具有強烈的獨立思想，這種思想源自於強烈獨立思想的文化。當我成為基督徒時，這是我基督徒生命早期需要打的一場重大戰役，並且要贏得勝利。

2. 常常不願意接受權威。「別打擾我」是肢體語言。

「別告訴我我必須做點什麼」不想被牧羊的羊。

3.

拒絕明白聖經的明確意義。有些人喜歡在神的話語中發現令人興奮的新真理和寶藏，但卻看不到顯而易見的事實，即新約是寫給一群人的。我們怎麼能錯過這個呢？然而，許多人來到教會時並不願意承認他們屬於彼此，而我們也屬於他們。

4. 然後，正如神學家約翰·斯托特（John Stott）在談到具有破壞性的神職人員/平信徒問題時所說的那樣，相信基督教的工作只適合某些人。

幾年前，《浸信會時報》發表了一篇題為「相信就是歸屬」的文章。研究員格蕾絲·戴維（Grace Davey）表示，21

世紀初許多人的現實是「我去教會是因為我想滿足生活中的特定需求，而不是一般需求。只要它能提供我想要的東西，我就會繼續我的依戀」但我沒有義務先參加或繼續參加」。

□ 這不是義務倫理—這是消費倫理。

5.

從來沒有根據教會如何幫助我或為我提供什麼來選擇教會或來教會。

「我能給予什麼，我能如何服務」在哪裡

6.

人們普遍認為「我的原生家庭是第一位的」。家庭承諾永遠是第一位的。主的工作只有在『我沒有別的事』的情況下才會被考慮。

7b

耶穌責備撒狄教會（啟3:4），那裡只有少數人親近主，因為只有少數人積極從事祂的工作。

漫遊者“如果你不是答案的一部分，那麼你就是問題的一部分”這段關於外約旦部落的長文有何意義？當然，它是為了激勵我們同樣做好準備和願意，並給我們一個清醒的警告：鑑察我們內心和思想的那一位會看到我們的不情願。

當主在 KNBC

中看著我們時，他會怎麼想？你有多願意參與上帝給你的部分？您能確保您有服務區域嗎？你會盡你所能的參與出去傳福音嗎？幫助青年工作？你能幫提姆蓋房子，粉刷柵欄嗎？您可能會想：「我不能做這些事」。那你還能做什麼呢？我們迫切需要行政方面的幫助。無論哪種方式你都可以祈禱，你願意承諾祈禱嗎？透過祈禱，你可以與主的子民以及主的工作連結。

1812年拿破崙在俄羅斯戰敗—原因之一是：

拿破崙保留了部分軍隊並輸掉了一些戰役。

我們都在戰鬥，敵人希望看到你不參與其中。

所以，**每次教堂祈禱時間到來時，不要「嗯」和「啊」。**決定出席。您的到來成為鼓勵的泉源！如果你經常缺席，如果你把那把椅子空著，你的缺席就會讓其他人洩氣。做好準備並願意。讓我們一起榮耀主。

確實，教會的力量取決於禱告會的力量。

還記得上週教堂的公告插圖，只有當**每個人都帶著一盞燈並將其放在長凳上時，教堂才會亮起來。**

讓我們這樣做，因為我們是基督的身體，你們**每個人都是其中的一部分。林前**

12:27. 拒絕作為身體的一部分而活出你的生命就是罪—不存在所謂的獨行俠基督徒！

下一個“R”是響應。

基督徒靠恩典得救，靠恩典生活，這表示我們活在來自信仰的順服中。換句話說，這是以我們的服從為條件的。v29

迦得人、流便人、各人你們武裝起來，在耶和華面前與你們一起過約旦河，等那地被你們征服之後，就把基列地賜給他們為業。

30

但如果他們不帶著武器與你們一起過去，他們就必須在迦南地與你們一起接受他們的財產。像他們的其他兄弟一樣穿越約旦河並為定居點而戰。

他們忠誠嗎？是的是的。他們因忠誠而獲得土地。摩西在這事發生之前就向他們應許了。

……城市，並為他們的羊群建造了圍欄。我們在申命記3章12節（第181頁）中再次看到這一點。的一半及其城鎮。

是的，他們做了他們所承諾的事情，因為他們已經準備好了並且願意。我們必須及時快轉才能看到最後一個“R”的實際獎勵

報酬

翻到約書亞記 22:1（第 237 頁）

當東方部落從征服中歸來時，他們也回家了。 1

約書亞召了流便人、迦得人、瑪拿西半支派來，對他們說：「耶和華僕人摩西所吩咐的，你們都遵行了，我所吩咐的，你們也都聽從了。這是一件艱難的事。

你能聽到耶穌的話嗎：“幹得好，又良善又忠心的僕人。”

3

你們長久以來，直到今日，都沒有離棄你們的弟兄，仍然執行耶和華你們神所吩咐你們的使命。一生。

• 基督徒—這是我們一生的工作—事奉主。沒有其他的。

4

現在耶和華你們的神既然照著他所應許的，使你們的弟兄得享平安，你們就可以回到耶和華僕人摩西在約旦河西所賜給你們的地上，回到你們的家鄉去。對我們來說，前方有一個天堂般的家。

哦，準備好並願意—你是嗎？那麼你將分享巨大的獎勵。

我們沒有時間詳細討論這個，但他們在約旦河邊建造了一座雄偉的祭壇。其他部落都震驚了。不，他們說這不是獻祭，這不是另類崇拜，這是提醒我們，我們仍然並將永遠與你們同在。我們是一體的。一個人在一起。 —結尾